

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 11, 2002 LB 935

election. LB 935 also requires that the absentee ballots counting board convene on election day to count absentee ballots. Several other election deadlines are also adjusted because they've changed the absentee ballot deadline...because we've changed the absentee ballot deadline. I have a pending amendment to strike the emergency clause and Senator Beutler has a clarifying amendment that also improves the bill.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator McDonald. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Brown would move to amend, AM2774. (Legislative Journal page 645.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Brown, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR BROWN: Good morning, Mr. President and members. This amendment is a bill that was advanced by the Education Committee. It allows the school district in a metropolitan class city to establish their own lines. Right now, the Omaha Public Schools district, which is a district that is elected by district, school board members are elected by district, is the only by-district elected body that is not...does not have final control over the lines. And this would make the Omaha Public Schools Board by-district elections consistent with the other method for determining the lines for other bodies that we have. The...probably the only problem that this poses, and it really is not a problem that is not already existent with a number of overlapping other elected bodies, is that occasionally the elected members are not as careful as they need to be about following precinct lines. And I know that this makes it very difficult for an election commissioner to develop precinct lines that work for all elections. But this just makes it consistent with all the other by-district elections so that the voters have someone that they can...an elected official that they can appeal to if they are unhappy with the way that the redistricting has happened, whereas right now if the election commissioner is the one that sets the final lines, the voters really have no one that is elected that they can appeal to. Now there is a pending lawsuit in the Omaha Public Schools district about the redistricting that happened just recently. This is prospective